

11 December 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's remarks - Vincent Melzac

Mr. Melzac, we have invited you here this morning to express our appreciation for the remarkable, indeed quite unique way in which you have over the years demonstrated your support for this Organization. Starting back in late 1960's, and continuing to this day, you have with a generous, even lavish hand made available from your extensive collection of modern American art paintings which are ideally suited to exhibition in the corridors of our Headquarters Building. We have always been very proud of our building, believing it to be one of the most handsome ever built to house a Government agency, and the presence of these large, colorful canvasses from the Washington Color School have done much to enhance our enjoyment of this attractive environment. Your most recent loans, including the statue in our main concourse, and two extremely valuable Morris Louis paintings, are just the latest examples of the quality of your support.

For the others of you gathered to honor Mr. Melzac, it might be appropriate to remind you that Mr. Melzac began collecting over 30 years ago, long before the work of the New York and Washington Colorists became fashionable. His early support for a number of local artists was in the finest tradition of art patronage, and he continues this kind of effort today, sponsoring currently the work of a young sculptor who has recently done a bust of Vice President Bush. Some of this artist's bronze miniatures now in Mr. Melzac's collection will be on display in our Exhibit Hall in April of next year. Mr. Melzac serves as consultant to many galleries and continues to be very active in art circles, although he divides his time between this pursuit and the breeding of prize Arabian horses. We are indeed fortunate to have him as our unpaid but highly valued consultant in Fine Art.

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Mr. Melzac, it gives me great pleasure to award you this Agency Seal Medallion and to tell you personally how much we all appreciate the strong support you have given to the Agency and its Fine Arts Program over the years you have been associated with us.

Bruce T. Johnson